

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Their airing of this program is equivalent to one of the other local stations airing Fahrenheit 9-11. It is not right for the media to attempt to sway public opinion one way or another in an election. The media is supposed to be objective, giving the facts only and allowing the public to decide for itself.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Airing this program is NOT serving the public interest - rather, it is serving the interests of Sinclair and other large corporations. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.